

DRAFT OF LETTER

PROPOSED BY COMPS

17 July 1950

Dear Mr. Webb:

I have received your letter of 7 July 1950, transmitting for my comments a Staff Study, dated 1 May 1950, on Production of National Intelligence. I note that the Department of State and Defense propose to submit it for consideration to the National Security Council.

This State-Defense Study proposes that the National Security Council give both responsibility and authority to a new Committee composed of the various Directors of Intelligence, no longer an Intelligence Advisory Committee (as set up in NSCIB 1 and approved by NSGSO and the Dulles Report), but rather a new National Intelligence Authority. The Central Intelligence Agency thus becomes just an additional intelligence agency and the Director's responsibilities in this Study are limited to providing headquarters, staffs and facilities for the new Committee and to only the dissemination of the final Estimates and Studies, prepared by the staffs responsible to the new Committee. The new Committee is given the responsibility to initiate, approve, review, recommend and to be responsible collectively for Estimates and Studies. It is believed that this was not the intent of Congress when it established a Central Intelligence Agency.

The new National Intelligence Group is called an "organic part of the Central Intelligence Agency," but this additional Office of CIA would be responsible to and work for the new Committee, only through the Director of Central Intelligence.

The missions of the Departmental Agencies would be to support the new Committee and its National Intelligence Group composed of its National Estimates Staff and its Current Intelligence Staff, not to

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support a Central Intelligence Agency and the Director of Central Intelligence, and CIA is given a similar "mission."

I believe that, under existing legislation pertaining to this Agency, the National Security Council would not wish to give powers such as your Study recommends to a Committee of Intelligence Directors and to so limit and change the responsibilities of the Director of Central Intelligence. If the National Security Council wishes to have such a National Intelligence Authority in lieu of an Intelligence Advisory Committee or of a Central Intelligence Agency, or superimposed on this Agency, appropriate legislation should be proposed.

I should be glad to have this matter clarified as I believe it would be of benefit to us all, and shall be glad to supply more detailed comments if desired. I note that you propose to have this a National Security Council Directive, not a National Security Council Intelligence Directive, so are submitting it direct to the National Security Council rather than in accordance with Section 102d(1) and (2) of the 1947 National Security Act.

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Director of Central
Intelligence

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